Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 107368 ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-03 SSO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 SNM-02 DEAE-00 /030 R

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O 122346Z MAY 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

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BRASILIA FOR TODMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BL, CASC

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA

1. ON MAY 12, APPROXIMATELY 25 PARENTS AND RELATIVES
OF THE PRISONERS ASSEMBLED AT THE DIPLOMATIC ENTRANCE
TO HOLD A "PRAY-IN." THE EVENT LASTED ONE
HOUR AND WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY ANY UNTOWARD INCIDENTS.
THE GROUP LEFT PEACEFULY.

NOTE: SOME PARENTS
MENTIONED TO US THAT THEY PLANNED TO TRY TO BE ARRESTED TO
PUBLICIZE THEIR PROTEST.

2. THE GROUP HANDED OUT A STATEMENT (COPY POUCHED) ACCUSING THE USG OF BEING "PREFUNCTORY (SIC) AND UNLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPONSIVE TO REASONABLE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND HELP THAT WE MADE IN OUR SEPARATE EFFORTS TO FULFILL THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ARE INCUMBENT UPON US AS CLOSE RELATIVES OF THESE PRISONERS." THEY FURTHER CONTEND THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THIS UNRESPONSIVENESS "CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE SENSIBILITIES OF CIVILIZED PEOPLES, COMPLICITY IN CRIMES AGAINST NATURE, AND A PERVERSE RE-

BELLION AGAINST OUR CREATOR." THE GROUP ANNOUNCES THAT IT

PLANS TO UNDERTAKE A "PERIOD OF FASTING AND PRAYER."

- 3. THERE WAS NO TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE PRAY-IN AND WE NOTICED ONLY ONE REPORTER. AT THE NOON PRESS BRIEFING, WHICH TOOK PLACE CONCURRENTLY, NO QUESTIONS AROSE ABOUT THE ISSUE.
- 4. AS DISCUSSED IN TELCON MAY 12, WTOP CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH GROUP OF PARENTS ON EVENING NEUS MAY 11. HIGH POINTS OF INTERVIEW WERE REPORT THAT DUFFY HAD BEEN TORTURED, REPORT THAT ONE PRISONER WAS ARRESTED WITH NO NARCOTICS IN HER POSSESSION (SPAW), AND REPEAT OF DEMANDS LISTED IN STATE 106168. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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